

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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R 050915Z NOV 75
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TO USDOC WASHDC
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AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA

UNCLAS ABU DHABI 2278

COMMERCE FOR SIPS - WHIPPLE

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: BTIO, TC
SUBJ: 1) EARLY WARNING - FOREIGN GOVT. TENDERS: MAJOR WATER
AND ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION PROJECTS.
2) MAJOR REVISION OF OUTSTANDING ABU DHABI TENDERS.

REF: A) ABU DHABI 706, B) ABU DHABI 2191, C) ABU DHABI 2175
D) ABU DHABI 2200, E) ABU DHABI 2190

SUMMARY: DURING RECENT MONTHS, ABU DHABI'S DEPT.
OF WATER AND ELECTRICITY HAS BEEN FORCED TO MAKE
MAJOR REVISIONS IN POWER TRANSMISSION AND WATER SCHEMES.
CHANGES WILL RESULT IN BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES OF
AT LEAST DOLLARS 400 MILLION. REQUEST CAGNE AND
NEA/ARP DISSEMINATE INFO TO INTERESTED US FIRMS EMPHA-
SIZING THAT MOST MAJOR TENDERS WILL BE PUBLICLY ANNOUN-
CED BY JULY 1976. END SUMMARY.

1. ON NOV. 2 AND 3 EMBOFF INTERVIEWED HABIB AHMED,
DIRECTOR GENERAL (TECHNICAL) OF THE ABU DHABI DEPT.
OF WATER AND ELECTRICITY (DWE) AND MR. WITTMANN,
PROJECT ENGINEER AT DWE'S CONSULTING FIRM, LAHMEYER
INTERNATIONAL, REGARDING PRESENT DWE PLANS FOR
EXPANDING THE ELECTRICAL AND WATER SYSTEMS IN ABU
DHABI EMIRATE. RECENT CHANGES IN DWE PLANS REVEALED
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IN THESE INTERVIEWS WILL HAVE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON

SOME OUTSTANDING DWE TENDERS AND WILL GIVE RISE TO SEVERAL NEW IMPORTANT TENDER INVITATIONS IN THE NEXT SIX TO EIGHT MONTHS. EMBASSY ESTIMATES TOTAL VALUE OF THESE UPCOMING TENDERS AT APPROX. DOLLARS 400 MISSION.

2. FIRST CHANGE IN DWE PLANS: MOST RECENT PROJECTION OF ABU DHABI POWER REQUIREMENTS SHOWS HERETOFORE UNANTICIPATED SHORTFALL IN GENERATING CAPACITY DURING 76 PEAK PERIOD (SUMMER). IN RESPONSE, DWE PLANS TO PURCHASE ELEVEN DIESEL GENERATORS ON A CRASH BASIS. IT APPEARS THAT G.M. DIESEL HAS THIS ORDER SEWED UP.

3. SECOND CHANGE IN DWE PLANS: SITE OF MAJOR NEW GENERATION/DESALINATION STATION HAS BEEN RELOCATED FROM UM-AL-NAR (SMALL ISLAND ADJACENT TO ABU DHABI ISLAND) TO DUBIYYAH (COASTAL TOWN ON MAINLAND 65KM WEST OF ABU DHABI). REASON FOR RELOCATION IS CONCERN THAT INDUSTRIAL PLANTS PLANNED FOR ABU DHABI POSE POTENTIAL WATER POLLUTION THREAT FOR ANY DESALINATORS INSTALLED ON NEARBY UM-AL-NAR. THE TWO MAJOR IMPLICATIONS OF RELOCATION OF UM-AL-NAR PLANT ARE:

A. START-UP DELAY OF PLANT WHICH WILL CREATE SERIOUS POWER AND WATER SHORTAGES IN SUMMER 78. THIS WILL FORCE CONSTRUCTION OF AN ADDITIONAL GENERATOR/DESALINATION STATION AT MATAH (ON MAINLAND OPPOSITE ABU DHABI ISLAND) ON CRASH BASIS DUE TO SHORT LEAD-TIME. MAGTAH STATION FACILITIES MUST BE IDENTICAL RE-ORDER OF EQUIPMENT PREVIOUSLY PURCHASED FROM EUROPEAN FIRMS FOR USE IN ABU DHABI TOWN POWER PLANT. THUS, NO MAJOR PUBLIC TENDERS WILL ARISE OUT OF CONSTRUCTION OF MAGTAH STATION.

B. ADDITIONAL MAJOR TRANSMISSION FACILITIES WILL BE REQUIRED TO BRING POWER AND WATER FROM GENERATION/DESALINATION STATION AT DUBIYYAH TO ABU DHABI TOWN.

4. THIRD CHANGE IN DWE PLANS: DESIGN LINE VOLTAGE OF MAJOR TRANSMISSION LINES WILL BE RAISED FROM 132 KV UNCLASSIFIED

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TO AT LEAST 220 KV. (HIGHER VOLTAGES STILL BEING CONSIDERED BY CONSULTANT, BUT 220 KV STRONGLY FAVORED BY DWE.) IMPLICATION OF HIGHER LINE VOLTAGE IS THAT PREVIOUSLY TENDERED 132KV ABU DHABI TO AL-AIN TRANSMISSION LINE WILL BE REDESIGNED AND DUE DATE FOR TENDERS WILL BE DELAYED UNTIL EARLY 76 FOR UNDERGROUND PORTION AND UNTIL MID 76 FOR OVERHEAD PORTION.

5. NO ADDITIONAL MAJOR INVITATIONS TO TENDER ARE EXPECTED FOR THE SUPPLY OF GENERATION OR DESALINATION EQUIPMENT UNTIL THE SECOND PHASE OF DUBIYYAH (OLD UM-AL-NAR) STATION IS READY TO GO OUT TO TENDER IN LATE 76. HOWEVER, BEGINNING IN ABOUT THREE WEEKS AND LASTING FOR THE NEXT SIX TO EIGHT MONTHS A SERIES OF INVITATIONS TO TENDER WILL BE ANNOUNCED COVERING THE FOLLOWING MAMOR TRANSMISSION PROJECTS:

ELECTRIC:

A. FROM EXISTING ABU DHABI TOWN NETWORK TO NEW MAGTAH POWER PLANT. THREE 132KV, SINGLE CONDUCTORS, OIL-FILLED, UNDERGROUND CABLES 30 KMS LONG. INVITATION TO TENDER EXPECTED IN 2 TO 4 WEEKS. THIS WILL REPLACE THE UNDERGROUND PORTION OF THE AL-AIN TO ABU DHABI TRANSMISSION LINE OF INTEREST TO DYNALECTRON COMPANY (REFTEL A).

B. FROM MAGTAH POWER PLANT TO JURN YAFOOR (JURN YAFOOR IS 17 KM DIRECTLY INLAND FROM MAGTAH AND WILL BE FUTURE HUB OF ABU DHABI EMIRATE POWER GRID.) DOUBLE-CIRCUIT, 220 KV TRANSMISSION LINES INSTALLED ONE ON A SINGLE ROW OF TOWERS 17 KMS LONG. INVITATION TO TENDER EXPECTED ABOUT MARCH 76.

C. FROM JURN YAFOOR TO AL-AIN. DOUBLE-CIRCUIT, 220 KV TRANSMISSION LINE INSTALLED ON SINGLE ROW OF TOWERW 125 KMS LONG. INVITATION TO TENDER EXPECTED ABOUT MARCH 76.

(NOTE: ITEMS B AND C WILL REPLACE OVERHEAD PORTION OF AL-AIN TO ABU DHABI TRANSMISSION LINE REPORTED UNCLASSIFIED

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IN REFTEL A.)

D. FROM JURN YAFOOR TO NEW DUBIYYAH POWER STATION. TWIN ROWS OF DOUBLE-CIRCUIT, 220 KV TRANSMISSION LINE TOWERS 65 KMS LONG. ALTHOUGH TOWERS WILL BE DOUBLE-CIRCUIT, INSULATORS AND LINES WILL INITIALLY BE INSTALLED ONLY ON ONE SIDE OF EACH TOWER ROW. INVITATION TO TENDER EXPECTED ABOUT MARCH 76.

E. AN UNDETERMINED NUMBER OF 132 AND 220 KV TRANSFORMER SUBSTATIONS AND SWITCHYARDS. PROBABLY WILL BE SEVERAL INVITATIONS TO TENDER BEGINNING EARLY NEXT YEAR.

WATER:

A. FROM ABU DHABI TOWN NETWORK TO MAFRAQ (MAFRAQ IS NEAR JURN YAFOOR AND WILL BE FUTURE HUB OF WATER NETWORK). CONTRACT HAS BEEN AWARDED TO US FIRM HARBART-HOWARD.

B. MAFRAQ TO DUBIYYAH, 65 KM, ANDMAFRAQ TO AL-AIN, 125 KMS. DESIGN NOT FIRMED UP YET BUT PROJECTS WILL BE VERY LARGE. PRESENT THINKING IS THAT MAFRAQ-DUBBIYYAH SYSTEM WILL INCLUDE TWO 48--INCH OR THREE 36-INCH PIPELINES 65 KMS LONG, PUMPING STATIONS, AND INITIAL GROUND-LEVEL STORAGE RESERVOIRS OF 16 MG TOTAL CAPACITY. INVITATION TO TENDER EXPECTED MID 76. HARBART-HOWARD IN EXCELLENT POSITION TO WIN THESE CONTRACTS.

6. DWE ALSO IN PROCESS OF INVITING TENDERS FOR CIF SUPPLY OF LARGE QUANTITIES OF ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION MATERIALS AS FOLLOWS:

- A. 600 POWER TRANSFORMERS. SEE REFTTEL B.
- B. 3320 KMS OF MEDIUM-VOLTAGE CABLE. SEE REFTELS C, D, AND E.
- C. ELEVEN-KV SWITCHGEAR. TO BE REPORTED.

7. EMB REQUEST S USDOC TO INFORM U.S. FIRMS COMMONWEALTH ELECTRIC, AND DYNALECTRON OF CHANGES IN AL-AIN TO ABU DHABI
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TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT, AND TO ALERT COMMONWEALTH, DYNALECTRON, HARBART-HOWARD AND OTHER INTERESTED U.S. FKRMS OF IMPENDING OPPORTUNITIES. EMB WILL REPORT INVITATIONS TO TENDER AS THEY ARISE.

8. ADDITIONAL DETAILS FOLLOW IN AIRGRAM.
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